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Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions: disaster risk reduction

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its eighth session

Summary

The eighth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) was held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, on 12 December 2013.

The Governing Council commended the Centre for its efforts to build the human and institutional capacities of member States on information and communications technologies for development (ICTD). It recognized the effectiveness of an integrated approach in the APCICT pillars of work and the wide range of programmes and services the Centre had developed to address the capacity-building needs in the region. It also noted the increasing demand for the APCICT programmes not only in Asia and the Pacific, but also from around the world.

The Governing Council endorsed the APCICT work plan for 2014, which contained the following targeted outcomes: expanded geographical coverage and reach of APCICT programmes in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond; wider utilization of the Centre's Academy and Primer training content by national partners; strengthened capacity of national partners in institutionalizing ICTD capacity-building programmes; and more vibrant knowledge-sharing and networking to sustain ICTD capacity-building efforts.

The Governing Council recommended that APCICT expand its programmes to address the needs of vulnerable groups. It requested the Centre to continue its stocktaking and analytical review of ICTD indicators and competency standards in the area of human capacity development. It called on the Centre to strengthen its advisory services on the institutionalization of its flagship programmes and government chief information officer (GCIO) development programmes in developing countries. The Council also requested APCICT to develop a comprehensive media strategy in order to enhance the visibility of the Centre and its ICTD programmes.

To ensure the sustainability of the Centre's ICTD capacity-building efforts in the region, the Governing Council called upon member States to contribute to APCICT, including in-kind contributions, in order to support its operations.

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council and provide the secretariat with guidance for the future work of the Centre.

* E/ESCAP/70/L.1/Rev.1.

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I. Recommendations

1. The Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) endorses the work plan for 2014. It notes the importance of taking a flagship programme approach in building information and communications technologies for development (ICTD) human capacities and underscores the need for continued institutionalization of ICTD capacity-building programmes by ESCAP member States in order to ensure sustainability, increased impact and long-term adoption. The Council recognizes the effectiveness of an integrated approach in the APCICT pillars of work. It also recommends that APCICT continue its partnership approach throughout the full project cycle.

2. The Governing Council recommends the development of relevant ICTD capacity-building initiatives that address the needs of rural

communities and vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities[1] and women. It requests APCICT to continue its stocktaking and analytical review of ICTD indicators and competency standards in the area of human capacity development. It also calls on the Centre to strengthen its advisory services on institutionalization of the flagship programmes and government chief information officer GCIO development programmes in developing countries.

3. The Governing Council underscores the importance of obtaining high-level buy-in from government leaders and decision-makers by increasing their awareness on the role of information and communications technology (ICT) in socioeconomic development and securing their support for ICTD capacity-building initiatives. It also emphasizes the importance of having appropriate national partners from various levels of government to promote the national uptake of the APCICT programmes. The Council also recommends that the Centre strengthen linkages and maintain continuous dialogues with other regional organizations.

4. The Governing Council recommends APCICT to develop a comprehensive media strategy, including social media and engaging media groups and journalists, in order to promote and increase the visibility of the Centre and its ICTD programmes.

5. The Governing Council recognizes the importance accorded to ICTD human capacity-building by the international community. It notes the increasing demand for the APCICT programmes not only in Asia and the Pacific but also from around the world. In recognizing that the Centre's successful development cooperation model could benefit developing countries in other regions, as well as to share the Centre's experiences and flagship programme approach, the Governing Council recommends that the APCICT programmes and scope of work be elevated and expanded to a global level.

6. In reviewing the administrative and financial status of APCICT, the Governing Council calls upon member States to contribute to the Centre, including in-kind contributions, in order to support its operations.

7. The Governing Council recognizes the importance of extending the APCICT programmes to rural communities and developing the relevant capacity-building initiatives in that area. Addressing the needs of vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities and women, also should be considered.

8. The Governing Council calls for documenting and sharing good practices and success stories that demonstrate effective applications of ICTD. It takes the view that APCICT should leverage its online distance-learning platform and explore the possibility of using mobile devices and applications in ICTD capacity-building work.

II. Summary of deliberations

9. The Governing Council had before it the following documents:

[1] The term "persons with disabilities" is the officially recognized term in the United Nations to refer to all persons with disabilities including those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments.

(a) Administrative and financial status of APCICT (E/ESCAP/APCICT/GC(8)/2);

(b) Work programme and project activities of APCICT (E/ESCAP/APCICT/GC(8)/3);

(c) 2014 APCICT Work Programme;

(d) Brief on the APCICT "Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders" (Academy) programme;

(e) Brief on the APCICT "Turning Today's Youth into Tomorrow's Leaders" programme;

(f) Brief on the APCICT Virtual Academy;

(g) APCICT online: Advancing knowledge development and sharing;

(h) Brief on the APCICT research pillar;

(i) Brief on APCICT media outreach.

10. Presentations were made by the Director of APCICT.

A. Report on the administrative and financial status of APCICT

11. The Governing Council was briefed about the Centre's background, administration and management, and financial status.

12. The Governing Council took note of the APCICT statute, adopted by the Commission in its resolution 61/6, in which the Centre was mandated to serve as a regional institute for building the human and institutional capacities of members and associate members in the use of ICT for the purpose of socioeconomic development. It also noted that the Commission, in its resolution 66/14, had decided that the Centre should continue to operate beyond 2011 as a subsidiary body of the Commission following, among other things, the submission of an independent evaluation of the Centre to the Commission at its sixty-sixth session,[2] which commended the successful performance of the Centre and recommended the continuation of its operations.

13. The work of APCICT contributes to ESCAP subprogramme 5, Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction. The Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division acts as a backstop for the Centre with regard to administrative matters pertaining to the subprogramme. On the basis of this arrangement, as set forth in the governance structure, the work of the Centre is reported to the Committee on Information and Communications Technology and to the Commission.

14. The Governing Council was given information regarding the Centre's administration and management, including current organizational structure, staffing composition and recent relocation to new premises in Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea. A summary of the financial status of APCICT as of 30 September 2013 was presented to the Governing Council, with information on institutional and programme funding support from the host country, the Republic of Korea, through the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning and Incheon Metropolitan City, and other sources, such as the Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund (KECF), the Korea International

[2] E/ESCAP/66/18.

Cooperation Agency (KOICA), and the Korea Internet Security Agency (KISA), as well as voluntary contributions from other member States.[3] The Governing Council was also informed about in-kind contributions provided by the partners of APCICT that contribute to programme development and delivery at regional, subregional and national levels.

15. Recognizing the need for ICTD capacity-building for socioeconomic development in order to increase the visibility of APCICT and its programmes and to support programme implementation and delivery at the national level, the Governing Council called on ESCAP member States to support and contribute to the operations of the Centre, either financially or through in-kind contributions.

B. Presentation of the work undertaken by APCICT since the seventh session of the Governing Council

16. The Governing Council was informed about the activities undertaken by the Centre in various pillars of its work, including training, research and knowledge-sharing, advisory services, and multilateral cooperation.

17. Since the seventh session of the Governing Council, APCICT had continued to enhance the content and broaden the reach of its two flagship ICTD capacity-building programmes: the "Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders" (Academy) and "Turning Today's Youth into Tomorrow's Leaders". The results of those programmes were valuable training content, knowledge resources and strengthened capacities of national resource persons, all of which helped meet the ICTD capacity-building needs of ESCAP member States.

18. The Governing Council was informed that, under the Academy, an 11-module training curriculum was currently available. As recommended by the Governing Council at its seventh session, the Centre had initiated work on developing a new module on ICT and small and medium enterprises and continued to customize and localize the various Academy modules, which were currently available in 12 languages, in close collaboration with national partners.

19. The Governing Council was informed that the APCICT flagship programme for government officers had been embraced and adopted by an increasing number of ESCAP member States. Thus far, the programme had been rolled out in 27 countries. A total of 227 capacity-building trainings and workshops using the Academy curriculum have been organized by APCICT and its partners, while more than 23,000 participants/individuals from 149 countries representing government officers, policymakers, trainers and other officials had benefited, through face-to-face or online training, from the Academy programme.

20. The Centre also had continued to strengthen the pool of local resource persons capable of delivering training on the Academy modules in the region through regional and subregional Academy training of trainers. Demonstrating strong local ownership of the Academy programme by the APCICT national partners, numerous partner-led Academy workshops and seminars had been undertaken using the Academy content.

[3] The Governing Council was informed that the balance shown in the financial statement was earmarked for future programmatic and operational activities of APCICT. Updated financial statements appear in annexes II, III and IV.

21. Several Governing Council members shared their experiences and plans in rolling out the Academy programme. The representative of Indonesia stated that the Academy modules had been integrated into the government officer training and GCIO development programmes. The Academy had been utilized in 33 Indonesian provinces since 2011. The representative of Bangladesh shared his Government's plan to deliver the Academy training programme through the Bangladesh Computer Council, starting with 17 out of 64 districts, in the current fiscal year and in all districts in fiscal year 2014/15. The representative of Sri Lanka stated that the Information and Communication Technology Agency, in partnership with the Sri Lanka Institute for Development Administration, would introduce the Academy in the induction programme for government officers in 2014.

22. The representative of the Philippines expressed her appreciation for the partnership between the National Computer Institute and APCICT. She stated that the Government would continue to strengthen and widen the reach of the Academy in the Philippines. The representative of Pakistan indicated the importance of obtaining high-level support in rolling out the programme in his country. He expressed his country's interest in utilizing the Academy programme in 2014.

23. The Governing Council was informed about the progress of the APCICT second flagship programme, entitled "Turning Today's Youth into Tomorrow's Leaders", which aimed to impart key ICTD knowledge to students and youth by expanding the coverage of ICTD education in university curricula. Under that programme, the Primer Series on ICTD for Youth served as a learning resource to help educators fill the gap in ICTD coverage in universities and academic institutions.

24. The Governing Council also was informed that the Primer Series, currently available in five languages, had been rolled out in 13 countries and introduced in two subregions. More than 90 universities in the region had been reached and strengthened through 22 training-of-trainers workshops organized by the Centre in cooperation with national partners. An online version of the Primer was also available. About 6,000 participants had been trained, either through face-to-face training or online. New primer issues had also been developed and finalized on the topics of project management and ICTD, disaster risk management, and climate change and green growth.

25. The Governing Council was apprised of the progress achieved under the Centre's research and knowledge-sharing pillar. Case studies on Academy monitoring and evaluation together with country studies on distance learning platforms in Asia and the Pacific were produced. A new Knowledge Sharing Series issue on the topic of GCIO development in developing countries had also been launched along with other knowledge products, such as the Academy Briefing Notes.

26. The Governing Council took note of the stocktaking and analytical review of available ICTD indicators and competency models at the global, regional and national levels undertaken by the Centre, as recommended by the Council at its seventh session.

27. The representative of Indonesia noted that human resource development indicators were useful for developing policies and strategies on capacity-building. Further research and analysis in that area and producing a publication under the Centre's Knowledge Sharing Series initiative would be a valuable resource to government officials and policymakers.

28. The representative of India stated that ICTD and human resource development indicators and indices were useful to policymakers in setting targets and goals. He suggested that APCICT should continue with its stocktaking work and consider developing a framework that could be piloted in one or two countries. The representative of the Philippines expressed support for the development of standards and indicators in the area of ICTD capacity-building, and suggested that a mapping of existing competency standards and indicators around the world be conducted.

29. In the area of e-learning and online platforms, the Governing Council was informed about the increase in enrolments in the APCICT Virtual Academy. There also had been an increase in resources uploaded to the e-Collaborative Hub and partners resource centres. The Governing Council was informed that, under the advisory services pillar of the Centre, APCICT had continued to provide member States and partners with technical assistance in the areas of academy customization and institutionalization, monitoring and evaluation, GCIO programme development, and development of ICTD curricula.

30. The Governing Council recognized the need for the Centre to expand the target groups and beneficiaries of the APCICT programmes. The representative of Indonesia recommended reaching the grass-roots level, while the representative of Sri Lanka underscored the importance of addressing the needs of women. The representative of Bangladesh, while noting the varying levels of development among countries in Asia and the Pacific, recommended further expansion of the work in the region, as well as including other social groups.

31. The Governing Council recognized the importance accorded to ICTD human capacity-building by the international community in global dialogues, such as the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,[4] and the targets set at the World Summit on the Information Society,[5] which were aimed at narrowing the digital divide. It held the view that ICTD human capacity-building would be stressed in the development agenda beyond 2015.

32. The Governing Council noted the high relevance of the APCICT programmes in addressing development challenges. It also recognized the increasing demand for the APCICT programmes not only in Asia and the Pacific but also from around the world. The representative of India stated that expanding the footprint of APCICT to other regions while increasing its work within Asia and the Pacific could be undertaken concurrently by the Centre.

33. The representative of the Republic of Korea noted that the Centre's successful development cooperation model could benefit developing countries in other regions that were in need of various ICT skills and of knowledge. He stated that the Government would strengthen its efforts to expand support for the Centre in terms of financial and human resources with the aim of bridging the digital divide and developing ICT in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world.

34. The Governing Council reviewed the work undertaken by APCICT since the seventh session of the Council. It commended the Centre for its

[4] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

[5] See the Geneva Plan of Action (A/C.2/59/3, annex) and the Tunis Commitment and Tunis Agenda (A/60/687).

efforts to build the human and institutional capacities of member States on ICTD.

35. The Council also expressed its deep appreciation for the wide range of programmes and activities undertaken by APCICT, as well as for the Centre's efforts in addressing the recommendations from the seventh session of the Council.

C. Presentation of the APCICT work plan for 2014

36. The Governing Council reviewed the APCICT work plan for 2014, which contained the following targeted outcomes: wider utilization of the Centre's Academy and Primer content by national partners; strengthened capacity of national partners in institutionalizing ICTD capacity-building programmes; more vibrant knowledge-sharing and networking to sustain ICTD capacity-building efforts; and expanded geographical coverage and reach of APCICT programmes in Asia and the Pacific and beyond.

37. The Governing Council was informed that, in 2014, APCICT would strengthen its Academy and Primer programmes and continue to provide need-based training content and to build the institutional capacities of national partners through training, advisory services, research and knowledge-sharing, and multilateral cooperation.

38. The Governing Council was apprised that the Centre would enhance its online platforms by increasing interactivity among the APCICT Virtual Academy, partners' resource centres, the e-Collaborative Hub and the Communities of Practice. The Centre had planned to develop a promotional strategy to increase online course enrolments and completion and would likewise develop a comprehensive outreach strategy to increase the visibility of the Centre and its programmes.

39. The Governing Council underscored the importance of obtaining high-level support for ICTD capacity-building. This required sustained engagement of political leadership and increasing awareness at the highest level. The representative of the Philippines stated that identifying national champions for ICTD programmes could also contribute in that effort. The representative of the Republic of Korea stated that an effective media strategy, including engagement of journalists and media professionals, could also facilitate advocacy and the promotion of the APCICT programmes. The representative of Sri Lanka also suggested that a bottom-up approach to a high-level buy-in be undertaken by working on priority programmes and with beneficiaries of high importance to political leaders.

40. In delivering the APCICT programmes at the country level, the Governing Council recognized the need for identifying the appropriate national partners both at the central/ministry level and state/provincial levels. The representative of the Philippines also called for partnering with state universities for the Primer programme.

41. The Governing Council expressed its appreciation to the Director and staff of APCICT for their dedication and contribution to the work of the Centre and endorsed the work plan for 2014.

D. Date and venue of the ninth session of the Governing Council

42. The representative of the Republic of Korea suggested organizing the ninth session of the Governing Council in the Republic of Korea to coincide

with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference, scheduled to be held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 20 October to 7 November 2014, in order to leverage the high-level participation and momentum of the Conference.

43. The Chair recommended that the Governing Council explore other venues for the ninth session and invited members to submit proposals for further review and approval at a later date.

E. Other matters

44. No other matters were deliberated by the Governing Council.

F. Adoption of the report

45. The Governing Council adopted the present report on 7 January 2014.

III. Organizational matters

A. Opening of the session

46. The eighth session of the Governing Council of APCICT was held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, on 12 December 2013.

47. The Director of APCICT delivered the opening statement on behalf of the Executive Secretary of ESCAP.

B. Attendance

48. The session was attended by representatives of the nine member countries of the Governing Council: Bangladesh; Cambodia; India; Indonesia; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Sri Lanka; and Thailand.

C. Election of officers

49. The Governing Council elected Mr. Rajendra Kumar (India) Chair, and Ms. Maria Lourdez Aquilizan (Philippines) Vice-Chair.

D. Adoption of the agenda

50. The Governing Council adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Report on the administrative and financial status of APCICT.
5. Presentation of the work undertaken by APCICT since the seventh session of the Governing Council.
6. Presentation of the APCICT work plan for 2014.
7. Date and venue of the ninth session of the Governing Council.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report.

Annex I

List of documents

Symbol	Title	Agenda item
N/A	Provisional agenda	3
E/ESCAP/APCICT/GC(8)/2	Administrative and financial status of APCICT	4
E/ESCAP/APCICT/GC(8)/3	Work programme and project activities of APCICT	5
N/A	2014 APCICT Work Programme	6
N/A	Brief on the APCICT "Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders" (Academy) programme	5
N/A	Brief on the APCICT "Turning Today's Youth into Tomorrow's Leaders" programme	5
N/A	Brief on the APCICT Virtual Academy	5
N/A	APCICT online: Advancing knowledge development and sharing	5
N/A	Brief on the APCICT research pillar	5
N/A	Brief on APCICT media outreach	5
N/A	List of participants	

Annex II

Financial statement of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development for the year ended 31 December 2013
(United States doliars)

	2013	2012
Income		
Contributions	2 807 859	2 189 780
Interest income	28 463	25 970
Total income	2 836 322	2 215 750
Less: Expenditure	1 855 349	1 663 497
Net income over expenditure	980 973	552 253
Fund balance as at 1 January 2013	3 108 089	2 555 836
Less: Refunds to donors	48 257	-
Fund Balance as at 31 December 2013	**4 040 805**	**3 108 089**

Annex III

Financial statement of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development for the year ended 31 December 2013, by project component
(United States dollars)

	Korea Communications Commission and Incheon Metropolitan City	Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)	Joint Contributions and Others	Total
Income				
Contributions	1 730 359	1 000 000	77 500	2 807 859
Interest income	22 661	3 655	2 147	28 463
Total income	1 753 020	1 003 655	79 647	2 836 322
Less: Expenditure	1 146 366	603 476	105 507	1 855 349
Net income over expenditure	606 654	400 179	(25 860)	980 973
Fund balance as at 1 January 2013	2 556 114	181 864	370 111	3 108 089
Less: Refund to donors	-	-	48 257[a]	48 257
Total	**3 162 768**[b]	**582 043**[c]	**295 944**[d]	**4 040 805**

[a] Fund balance transferred from Project 2074-ROK09003 ($28,450) and Project 2118-ROK10002 (US$19,807) to global account G014-ROK_GLOB.

[b] After the reporting date of 31 December 2013 through 13 March 2014, allotments totalling $2,238,756.00 had been issued.

[c] After the reporting date of 31 December 2013 through 13 March 2014, allotments totalling $573,009.82 had been issued.

[d] After the reporting date of 31 December 2013 through 13 March 2014, allotments totalling $120,353.99 had been issued.

Annex IV

Contributions to the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development for the year ended 31 December 2013
(United States dollars)

Contributors	Year ended 31 December 2013	Year ended 31 December 2012
(1) Korea Communications Commission and Incheon Metropolitan City Project		
Republic of Korea (Incheon Metropolitan City)	1 000 000	1 000 000
Republic of Korea (Korea Communications Commission)	730 359	720 000
Subtotal	**1 730 359**	**1 720 000**
(2) Korea International Cooperation Agency Project		
Republic of Korea (Korea International Cooperation Agency)	1 000 000	434 780
Subtotal	**1 000 000**	**434 780**
(3) Other technical cooperation projects		
Government of India	-	30 000
Government of Macao, China	5 000	5 000
Korea Internet and Security Agency (KISA)	72 500	-
Subtotal	**77 500**	**35 000**
Total Contributions	**2 807 859**	**2 189 780**